

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Legal hopes of moving Nazi HQ fade

WEBSTER WOOS COUNCIL

The twenty thousand people who signed the petition to Hackney Council that should have been presented at the end of January did not know that Martin Webster and other National Front leaders have already approached the Council about getting permission to stay in their Shoreditch headquarters. And it seems, legally, that there is no way that the Council can evict from their premises under the present law. The Front say that they are only using the warehouse in Great Eastern Street for storage purposes and that it is not their main offices. But they want to turn the warehouse into a printing works - doing general commercial work as well as their own fascist propaganda - and since the whole area is zoned for industrial improvement, it would be very difficult for the Council's planning department to turn them down. As yet, however, the Front have made no formal application.

About 250 Anti-Nazi League supporters demonstrated their opposition to the National Front headquarters outside the Council meeting on Wednesday 24 January. A deputation was due to present a petition of twenty thousand signatures to the Council in support of the ANL demand to get rid of the nazi headquarters. But in fact the petition was not presented.

Representatives of the public employees' union, NUPE, were picketing the Council meeting that night, as part of their campaign

against low pay, and the ANL delegation decided not to cross the picket line. The petition is now expected to be presented at the February Council meeting.

WIPE THEM OUT

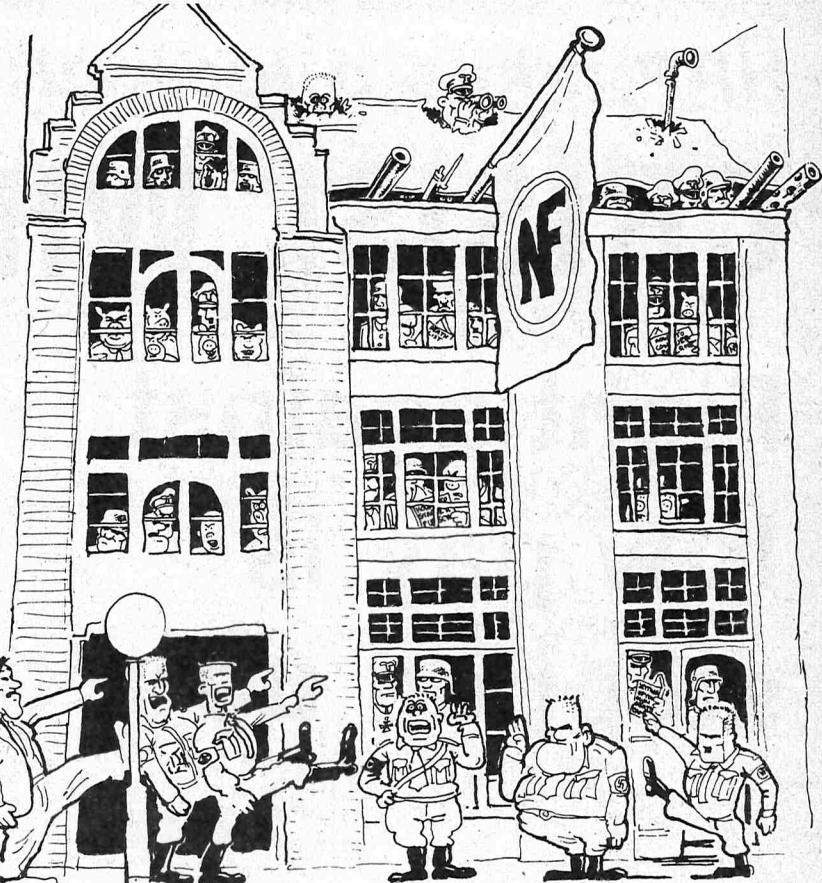
A number of speeches were made on the Town Hall steps and all the speakers stressed that the ANL didn't want the NF HQ just moved away from Hackney. The same situation would occur wherever they were allowed to set themselves up. The only

solution was to "wipe them from the face of the earth."

News that acting Council leader John Kotz was to move a resolution calling for the NF to be investigated under the toothless Race Relations Act was greeted with derisive jeers. The call was repeated for action, not words.

Officials from the Council's planning department in Shoreditch went to meet Martin Webster at the Great Eastern Street warehouse just before Christmas. He told them that the building - which they call "Excalibur House" - was being used for storage purposes only.

We understand that then he indicated that they would be applying for permission to turn it into a printshop. His denial that the building is the official Front headquarters contrasts oddly with NF Chairman John Tyndall's reported statement to their secret AGM held in mid-January that this is what the building is. There have also been similar statements



A view inside "Excalibur House" as depicted in Searchlight.

printed in their own papers indicating this.

Now, it seems the NF are sensing victory. Their lawyers have advised them that it would be difficult to evict them if they are using the building as a warehouse, or eventually as a printshop. So they now deny that this Excalibur House is used for offices at all. They say that all their membership records are held at private addresses and that meetings are only held in hotels. They have stopped using the address on literature and correspondence by taking a Post Box number. And they are waiting for Hackney Council to make a move.

PLAY IT COOL

And is this likely? It would seem that the answer must be no. The Council has apparently instructed that the whole issue should be played as coolly as possible. It is a tremendous embarrassment to the leadership, obviously, and they would dearly like to get rid of the highly unwelcome fascists.

But unless they can find a good legal way, they are unlikely to do anything more positive than examine closely any planning application made.

This is why they are hoping for support from ex-Tory MP

David Lane and his cronies at the weak-kneed Commission for Racial Equality. This is the same Commission that embarrassed the Council itself last summer when it announced that it was going to examine Hackney's housing policy for racialist overtones. And yet the Council now regards it - and the ineffectual Home Secretary Merlyn Rees - as the people who will announce that the Front is breaking the Race Relations Act. This will come as no surprise to the NF itself, which has always said that it is a racialist organisation.

The only way that the Front will be moved from Shoreditch will be from direct pressure. There are many ways in which this can be applied. For instance, they depend on public employees to connect its telephone, collect its rubbish, deliver its mail. It would be very easy for trade union and labour movement support to be rallied behind any group of workers who refused to do any of these things. The local Labour parties and the Council could encourage them to do this. Twenty thousand people in and around Hackney have demanded that they do something, and something should be seen to be done.

MOURNING FOR MICHAEL FERREIRA



Hundreds strong, Michael Ferreira's mourners march past Ridley Road market.

Photo: Ernie Greenwood.

On a cold and snowy January Saturday, several hundred people gathered in Clapton to join the funeral cortege of nineteen-year-old Michael Ferreira, murdered just before Christmas in east London's fourth racist murder in eight months.

No banners or placards were carried, no chants were raised, no papers were sold. There was just a solemn procession, about equal numbers of black people and white people following a flower-lined hearse, with an enormous wreath reading "SON", and two black limousines carrying Michael's family.

As the march moved slowly up Kingsland High Street, crowds of black people gathered at the end of Ridley Road market to pay their respects. Raised fist salutes were given as "We shall overcome" was sung again and again. And a man standing by the side of the road asked: "Who was he? Was it anyone important?"

Of course Michael Ferreira was important. He had a family, he had friends and they have lost a nineteen-year-old son or brother, cut down in a cowardly attack. But there is more to his name now. By his death he has become a symbol of all that is wrong with our racialist society.

This is why the black people on the procession were angry, and why many demanded that they should protest outside Stoke Newington police station, instead of tamely dispersing when the cortege moved off to the crematorium.

This is why the Hackney Black People's defence organisation has been formed, to demand justice for the death of Michael Ferreira, and justice for the racialist oppression of black people everywhere.

Continued on p. 8.

HPP takes a look at the current scene and asks...

CRISIS! WHOSE CRISIS?

Fight against low pay is stepped up

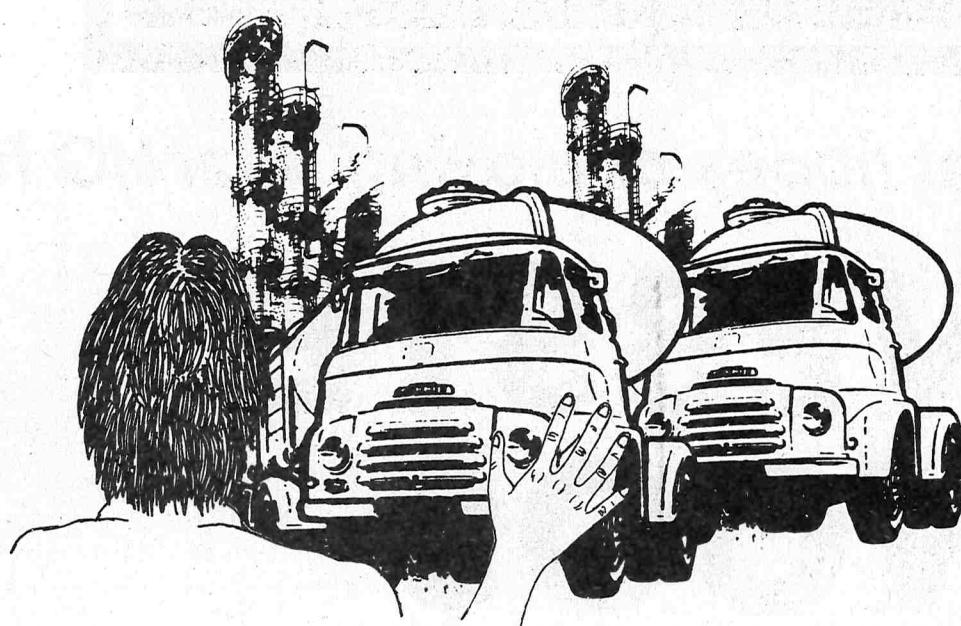
Hackney's dustmen came out on indefinite strike in the last week of January in support of the National Union of Public Employees claim for a basic wage of £60 for a 40 hour week. This action has stepped up the fight against low pay and furthered the campaign initiated by the one day strike of all NUPE members on January 22nd across the country.

MASS ACTION
This day of mass action culminated in a demonstration of between 45,000 and 80,000 members in London that afternoon.

Health Service and other public services on which their jobs depend.

EFFICIENT SERVICE

In turn the future of these services depends upon staff who are able to work in the knowledge that they have the backing of local and central government, intent upon providing an adequate and efficient service to the public. While the Public sector remains low paid, the morale of NHS workers is low and the quality of the service is reduced. The further repression of wages in the public services is a



TRADE UNION RIGHTS ATTACKED

As this issue goes to press, trade union rights are under severe attack from the establishment as a reaction to the determination of the lorry drivers in their battle for a wage of £65 for a 35-hour week.

"SECONDARY PICKETING"

The ruling in the case between United Biscuits and Mr Reg Fall, a TGWU shop steward picketing that company during the dispute, has thrown into question the long-established right of trade unions to picket companies not directly involved in a dispute. (This is the so-called "secondary picketing".) Mr Justice Ackner ruled that secondary picketing was unlawful in this case because the secondary picketing was too remote from the actual dispute to be lawful. If this case is to be used as a precedent, over-ruling this very right as laid down in the 1974 Trade Union and Labour Relations Act, then the strength of the individual trade unionist and the movement as a whole will be seriously eroded. The idea of "union solidarity" and collective strength would be lost. The ability of workers to advance in almost any strike would be lost. How many strikes are won without secondary

picketing? The answer is very few. These tactics, supported by the Labour government, if not the bulk of the Labour party, are the classic "divide and rule" tactics being implemented because the establishment is scared and threatened by the collective action of thousands of working people as a reaction to nearly five years of being sold out by a "Labour" government.

DIVISION IN SOCIETY

The actions of the lorry drivers of the TGWU and the public service workers, are justified by the great division in our society which not only remains unchanged by the present government, but has actually been accentuated. While Callaghan, Foot, Healey and friends have been promising "jam yesterday, jam tomorrow, but never jam today" for nearly five years the increases of the wealthiest section of society is quite startling. Inland Revenue statistics show that the richest 10 per cent of the British people have increased their share of the country's wealth from 57.8 per cent in 1974 to 60 per cent in 1976. Even more dramatically, the share of the least wealthy 50 per cent of the population actually declined from 7 per cent to 5.5 per cent in the same period. It is, of course,

Thatcher and her friends who wish to maintain this status quo and the rank and file trade unionists who wish to change it.

DISREGARD OF DEMOCRACY

Unfortunately, the trade union leaders cannot be included amongst those who wish to change this appalling state of affairs. The events of the last few weeks have shown a callous disregard of union democracy. Union leaders were - according to *The Observer* - hoping to "keep a firm grip on the activities of their local action committees which will run the disruption campaign, but they are worried that militants will escalate the action." Meanwhile, at the public sector demonstration on 22 January the rally ended with calls for an "all-out strike" from ordinary union members. The question must be asked. Are union leaders elected to represent or to control? We know which way the establishment would like it to be. It seems that is what is increasingly happening. It is up to the rank and file to ensure those elected to the union bureaucracy that they are not corrupted by their own power and allowed to sell out to the membership upon which, in any case, they depend for their jobs.



This enormous opposition to the "Labour" government's continued suppression of wages was largely forgotten by the Tory, Union-bashing media. While strikers were being almost continuously knocked by the establishment, the facts of the previous years were conveniently forgotten. NUPE ambulance and hospital workers were being condemned as irresponsible people threatening lives because of a one day strike by David Ennals, Health Secretary. Yet he is the very person responsible for closing kidney units, the Bethnal Green Hospital, lengthening waiting lists and so on. Those who knocked the trade unionists for their action did not consider that these strikers might also care for the future of the

part of the cutbacks in public spending. Hackney Council has claimed it cannot pay NUPE members because its hands are tied by central government. If they pay, they say, their funds will be cut.

SENSATIONALISING MEDIA

The suffering of hospital patients, old people, mentally ill etc. so far appears to have been minimal, despite the sensationalising of individual incidents in the media. NUPE are only too well aware of the vulnerability of these sections but have the difficult task of offsetting short term suffering caused by strikes against the long term damage done to the social services if confidence is not restored by paying a living wage.

HACKNEY GIRLS PROJECT

GIRLS ONLY. All sessions at 7pm. Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High St, E8.

This highly successful programme of films, talks and practical sessions continues through February with:

- 7 Feb - The Amazing Equal Pay Show - film and talk.
- 14 Feb - drama workshop.
- 21 Feb - Know your Rights session
- 28 Feb - Carpentry, crafts printing.

London soldier speaks on Ireland

Last month in HPP we said that we were going to try and follow the activities of our local regiments in Northern Ireland. The three infantry regiments which recruit in Greater London are the Royal Green Jackets, the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and the Queen's Regiment.

The Greenjackets' marvellous record in Northern Ireland goes back nearly sixty years. In 1920 both the Second and Third battalions were in Ireland carrying out what their official historian calls "unpleasant duties". Even at this time the Irish were fighting back and the regiment's general, Field Marshal Sir Henry Wilson, was assassinated by two Sinn Fein gunmen in London.

Recently an ex-member of the Greenjackets described what "unpleasant duties" he had to perform. Things are no different in the seventies, it seems.

"My first encounter with army brutality was when a mobile patrol came under nail bomb attack, and the patrol lifted a man who they thought might have been the thrower.

I was watching the company TV when he was dragged into the camp. He was then taken into the passageway and was repeatedly hit in the stomach and balls with rifle butts. Then the rest of the soldiers joined in with their fists and boots.



oppressors, and as usual the army over-reacted. Before long, there was a rather larger crowd.

After a while there were a few shots fired at the army and I was ordered to search, with two others, some back alleyways. A boy of about 16 was stopped in an alleyway by an NCO who was pointing his rifle at him and telling the boy that he was going to kill him. He kept asking the boy what it felt like to know that you're going to die any moment.

The NCO kept this up for about five minutes, then he

told the boy to go away.

The boy went to his father, who went to the commanding officer that same day - who of course instantly denied everything.

If only the British public, especially the parents of soldiers serving over the water, realised that their sons do terrorise the local people, do shoot innocent people and do smash up homes at four o'clock in the morning, simply because they are bored with the foot patrol or they just want to pass the time.

And, last but not least, they do terrorise the Catholic community because they are methodically brainwashed with propaganda of all types, before they do their four-month duty over there, into believing that all Catholics are Provos. I am Church of England, by the way.

I only wish that I had realised how wrong it all is, and that the people in Ireland are sick and tired of British oppression in their own country...but I'm afraid I was just another brainwashed soldier like the rest of them."

W. Sellick writing in Socialist Worker in 1976.

In future issues we will carry details of the activities of the Queen's Regiment and the Fusiliers.

HOW FBI BUGGED ALTERNATIVE PAPERS

Hackney People's Press is part of a world-wide network of similar papers, the Alternative Press Syndicate, which is based in the United States. There, members have recently been investigating their own FBI files which they obtained under the US Freedom of Information Act, and they found that they had been the subject of intense surveillance.

The files showed that alternative papers had been subjected to mail opening, watches on their offices, surveillance of staff, the obtaining and copying of bank records, telephone records, income tax records and the like. Obviously much of the information was obtained from other government departments, but some documents could only have been obtained by illegal "black bag" jobs (secret burglaries of personal and newspaper files.)

"College Press Service", a group of journalists who sent information to student papers across the country, discovered that the FBI had actually gone so far as to create a newspaper of their own so that they could receive the CPS mailings. They paid the subscription for a paper they called the "Denver Arrow" and listed its address as an anonymous PO Box.

"Liberation News Service" found that the FBI had published anonymous letters on its behalf in the confusing time after a staff split.

More seriously, a Senate Committee investigating intelligence abuse found that some reports indicated that FBI funds had been used to finance paramilitary operations by two right-wing groups in San Diego. In one physical attack by these groups, over \$5,000 of typesetting equipment was destroyed. Then another paper was forced out of business and a third was subjected to vandalism and firebombing.

Some of the more ridiculous ideas were turned down. One of these involved a plan to spray alternative papers secretly with a chemical stench which "disburses a most offensive odor."

These stories also have a message for us in Britain. Here we live in a highly secretive society, and any law - even a Freedom of Information Act - is unlikely to allow ordinary people the right to see the contents of any MI5 or Special Branch file. Yet these files probably contain stories as ridiculous - and dangerous - as those listed above.

There exists here a "state within a state", as defined by one of the defendants in the Official Secrets Act case last autumn.

And this state is all-powerful because the people who define it say that it must be so. We will only know what they are trying to hide and why when we demand that most basic of rights, the right to know.

SELF-HELP IN BLACK COMMUNITY

It is now 25 years since West Indians started entering this country in large numbers in response to the news that Britain desperately needed workers for the railways, the underground and other essential services. In that time, the black community has struggled against prejudice and violence to retain some dignity for itself. In the course of that struggle, especially in recent years, blacks have discovered that in the end, only by self-reliance, can they have any hope. Part of that self-reliance has included the establishment of a number of organisations catering principally for black youth, providing them with real legal support against a biased police force and legal system, helping them also with accommodation where possible and attempting to provide an alternative and more appropriate social life than that of the streets.

One such organisation is the Pastor Morris Advice Centre in Bradbury Street in Hackney. Pastor Morris, its founder, has worked here since 1954 when he came over from Jamaica. Ordained as a missionary, as an evangelist in 1957 and as a Pastor in south Wales in 1961, he opened his first youth club in Hackney in 1962. He moved later to Islington, where he used various schools as centres for black youth, then to Tottenham where he ran the

old West Green Community Centre and used the "Youth Cottage" in Park Lane as an advice centre. Over these years, as the number of black teenagers increased while their aspirations to equality with their white peers remained frustrated, clashes with the law became more frequent. Increasing, too, were the clashes between teenagers and their more passive, accepting parents. So it was that many black youth moved out on to the streets, sleeping rough, surviving as best they could with unemployment at least three times higher amongst them than white youth. To alleviate some of this distress, High Cross Hostel was opened in Haringey in 1973 with Pastor Morris as warden.

By this time, however, it had become clear to black leaders that they were not going to get funds for their community projects simply by holding out a begging bowl; the only way was to fight, even if this meant unpleasant public quarrels with councillors and others. Naturally, this style did not appeal to those in power because it challenged the very prejudices they denied. The important thing is that it worked. It produced an abrasiveness which even today white people do not understand. Many in Haringey - and more recently in Hackney - remember Pastor Morris's taunts and contemptuous dis-

missal of council policy with some anger. This assault of central and local government representatives used more to quiet talks in pubs and clubs sometimes lost more than it gained for black leaders. Yet compromise with the system from which you



are excluded because of something as basic as colour is just not acceptable. White society's answer - assimilation - also is not acceptable because assimilation always means that the minority group are expected to abandon all their group identity.

Undoubtedly, Pastor Morris has infuriated councillors and council officers; in the end, however, we have to see the work of the black leaders against the background of a majority community quite unwilling even to recognise that minorities had rights of any kind.

It would be absurd to suggest that the black community was itself united in

how this struggle for self-reliance should take place. Pastor Morris's view, unpopular with many, is that in a dirty fight you fight dirty. If council especially those controlled by the Labour Party for whom blacks have traditionally voted - will not commit money to help minorities, then Pastor Morris believes in using the public media to expose and attack those councils. As a result, his career has often been a bitter one, with many people who supported his aims unwilling to say so publicly because of his methods of achieving them. Yet what cannot be denied is that his concern remains for black youth.

In 1975, Pastor Morris opened up his Advice Centre. Once again, instead of going through all the bureaucracy of appealing to the council with a strong expectation of failing, he rented the offices he could find with the little money available, set up the Centre and then started to demand support from the council. After a long and hard battle, with many bitter words spoken on both sides, he succeeded. Now the Centre receives grants from both central and local government. Though he is still involved in Church work at the weekends and is national overseer for a chain of Pentecostal churches, he now devotes most

of his time to the running of the Centre. There are three parts to work there: advice, referral and resettlement. Black youth go there in substantial numbers for advice on welfare rights and legal matters. The Centre will refer people with specific problems to a solicitor, to the local housing or social services department, or to another agency. There are also three resettlement workers whose work is to deal with those individual cases which require long-term attention - unemployed and unsettled young blacks with no real future. Much of the work of helping black youth is frustrating at the best of times, but whatever can be achieved will always be thanks to people like Pastor Morris who care enough to fight hard for what they believe are people's basic rights.

Jon Taylor

We regret that in our November issue that we printed some remarks about the work of Pastor Morris which might have been upsetting to him. The above article is published in an attempt to show the kind of valuable work he does.

HPP collective.

HACKNEY CANDIDATES SPLIT ON NUCLEAR POWER

Nuclear power must be an election issue, say Hackney Friends of the Earth. The government is committing huge amounts of money to an industry which is dangerous, unsuccessful, provides few jobs and isn't necessary; but candidates are divided on the question of whether we proceed with these developments.

Hackney FOE have canvassed the views of the parliamentary candidates in Hackney and found that they are deeply divided on this issue, with four broadly in favour of nuclear power, four against and three undecided. The Liberals are the party most opposed to nuclear power, with two candidates against and one undecided.

CRAZY

Amongst the Labour and Conservative candidates, we have the crazy situation whereby in Hackney South and Shoreditch, the Labour candidate is pro-nuclear and the Conservative against it, whereas in Hackney North and Stoke Newington the Labour candidate is anti-nuclear and the Conservative is pro.

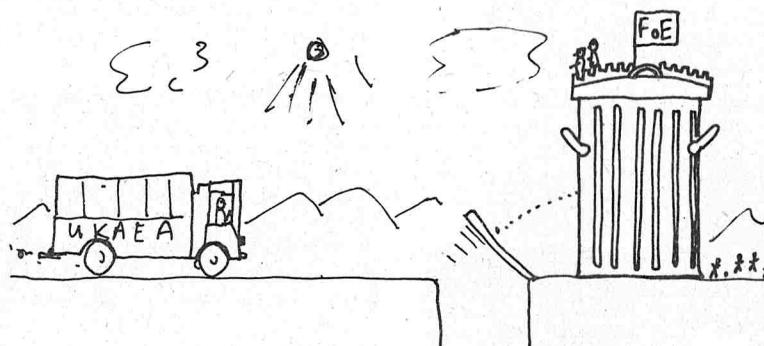
We wonder how *any* candidate can support this ailing industry. Current plans are for a reprocessing plant at Windscale and reactors at Torness and Heysham.

The reprocessing plant will cost £600m but only provide 1,000 jobs - the most expensive job creation scheme ever. Its purpose is to separate plutonium from nuclear waste produced here and abroad. This will greatly increase movements of plutonium, one of the most dangerous substances known, and still leave us with the problem of disposing safely of the remaining waste.

The Torness reactor in Scotland will cost at least £750m, or £375 per consumer, yet the South of Scotland Electricity Board already has a surplus generating capacity of 70 per cent and demand for electricity is rising by only 1 per cent a year. Don't think we're going to escape lightly south of the border. The reactor at Heysham will cost us at least £35 per consumer.

MORE BOMBS

If we let the nuclear industry carry on in this country, we are condoning its development abroad; and this means more countries with nuclear bombs. If the Fast Breeder Reactor programme gets the go-ahead, there will be more plutonium around and more armed Special Constables to guard it. Nuclear power must be stopped now.



CANDIDATES

Below is a list of the local candidates and where they stand on the nuclear power issue:

Hackney N and Stoke Newington: Ernie Roberts (Lab) - anti; Tim Miller (C) - pro; Tudor Gates (Lib) - anti; Monty Goldman (Comm) - undecided.

Hackney Central: Stanley Clinton Davis (Lab) - pro; Nicholas Bennett (C) - pro; Henry Young (Lib) - undecided; Dave Boyes (Comm) - undecided.

Hackney S and Shoreditch: Ronald Brown (Lab) - pro; David Evenett (C) - anti; Jeffery Roberts (Lib) - anti.

We're always willing to forgive and forget! We hope any pro-nuclear or undecided candidates who change their minds (or make them up!) will let us know.

LET THEM KNOW

If you share our concern about nuclear power, why not write to the candidates in your constituency letting them know what you think of their views. Remember that the anti-nuclear candidates need to hear that they've got your support. Ask questions at election meetings. As the candidates are not split on party lines, it will be easier for them to change their minds.

If you want to know more about our objections to nuclear power or want to join our campaign contact the Hackney Anti-Nuclear Group on 226 1799 or call in at Sun Power, 83 Blackstock Rd, N4, where you will also find a good selection of anti-nuclear publications.

Hackney FOE is campaigning for better insulation of homes, offices, factories and public buildings in Hackney. Insulation means energy conservation, warmer homes, smaller bills, more jobs: the safe alternative to nuclear power. For further details, contact Jim on 802 0122.

HACKNEY LAND-USE GROUP

We are a group interested in the environmental and political aspects of urban and rural land use. We are affiliated to Hackney Friends of the Earth. Other areas under study include the politics of food, land ownership, planning, and organic farming. We are also running a garden-share scheme and will be campaigning for allotments in Hackney.

We urgently need more people to help run these campaigns. If you are interested (and would possibly like an allotment yourself) contact Pete or Caroline on 249 4541.

NEW COMMUNIST PARTY MEETING

On 6 February, the New Communist Party is to hold its first public meeting in east London. Formed in the summer of 1977 by members of the Communist Party who opposed the growing reformism of that organisation, it has been growing in strength in the last 18 months.

Since its foundation, it has produced a weekly newspaper, *The New Worker*. On a number of occasions, it has had audiences of over 400 at meetings at Conway Hall.

Unlike the Communist Party, the New Communist Party opposes Euro-communism, and calls for support for the socialist countries. It rejects the CP's idea of an alternative economic policy to end the crisis. Instead, the NCP argues that capitalism cannot be reformed, but must be overthrown by the working class.

The main speaker at the NCP meeting will be its General Secretary, Sid French, who for many years was a full-time worker for the CP, as well as being the secretary of its Surrey district. John Burl, ex-Morning Star journalist, now working for *The New Worker*, will be the other speaker. Local ex-Young Communist

NEW CHILD CARE POLICY FOR COMMUNIST PARTY

The provision of adequate child care facilities and nursery education in Hackney will be amongst the major targets for Hackney Communist Party this year. Many activists are already heavily involved in local campaigns and the CP is discussing how it can develop activity in support of 'The International Year of the Child', which 1979 has been designated by the United Nations.

Child care was amongst the many topics debated at the lively Borough Conference of the Hackney CP held at the end of last year. The CP is looking at its own organisation in this respect.

PARENTS

Newly elected Borough Committee member, Martin Housden, has been elected Child Care Officer for Hackney CP. He

League member Mick Regan will open the meeting. The theme will be "Soviet Growth - Capitalist Crisis" and is to be held on Tuesday 6 February at 7.45 pm in Hackney Labour and Trades Club, 96 Dalston Lane, E8.

has the responsibility for ensuring that children are properly catered for at political meetings and events, thereby giving the kids a good time and allowing their parents to participate fully in activities. The CP will be campaigning through the Labour Movement and other democratic organisations for a halt to the exodus of industry from the Borough and for an injection of resources into local industry and the public services both of which are so important to the employment prospects and wellbeing of the community.

BETTER PAY DEAL

Hackney CP has declared its support of the Local Authority and Health Service workers who are fighting for a better pay deal and campaigning against low pay generally. They have given support to the local workers involved many of whom are CP members, and organised a public meeting addressed by speakers from the National Union of Public Employees and the

Transport and General Workers, two of the four unions leading the campaign.

Right wing economic and political strategies which create massive unemployment and low living standards for large sections of the community pave the way for racial tension. The Party is planning, as instructed by its Borough Conference, to set up a black comrades group and will be taking further initiatives to unite the ethnic minority groups in the area.

NATIONAL FRONT

The presence of the National Front headquarters in Hackney is an insult to the community and especially to members of the ethnic minorities. The CP is embarking on a series of pamphlets about a variety of important issues in the area and one of the first of these will deal with the question of racist violence. It will look at ways in which tragedies like that of the murder of the black youth, Michael Ferreira, in Stoke Newington, can be prevented. We shall also be campaigning against institutional racial

ism - in education, employment, housing, etc.

HISTORY

The Hackney CP has a long campaigning history. Membership is growing, currently standing at 350. In addition to its traditional strength amongst industrial workers, it has an increasing number of members in the public services and community groups in the health service, the social services, the Hackney-Islington Partnership Scheme, education, to name but a few. The expansion and improvement of these services is a key area of work for large numbers of members. Housing, transport and old people's welfare are particular areas of concern.

The Hackney Communist Party will be contesting seats in the General Election which is likely to take place in the near future. At present, plans are to stand two candidates in Hackney North and Stoke Newington and Hackney Central. The candidates are Monty Goldman and Dave Boyes. Discussions are taking place about election plans with others on the left in the borough.

RIO ON THE ROAD AGAIN

In February 1977, when the lease for the Rio Cinema in Kingsland High Street came on to the market, a group of people got together to form a working party to buy the cinema and turn it into a centre for arts and entertainment. All of us have been active in the community for many years and saw the Rio as an opportunity not to be missed.

Now, this March, the Rio will be under the management of the newly-formed Rio Centre (Dalston) Ltd, a charitable limited company. The legal negotiations have been long and complex. The intention is to turn the cinema into a local venue for theatre, dance and music groups as well as for cinema and to have a video and film workshop. We want to put together programmes that will reflect the different cultural interests of this area and to make the Rio a place where people will come to enjoy themselves and to learn new skills.

For the first few months, we will operate mainly as a cinema, but we hope to put on occasional music events as well. We will show a mixture of mainstream commercial and alternative-type films. Watch HPP for details of the programmes.

Before the Rio can be really used more widely, extensive conversion and improvement works are needed. We have applied to Hackney for partnership funding and we hope that Islington may be involved at some stage. We are asking for a total of £120,000. Capital costs, phased over three years to carry out the necessary improvements, fitting in dressing rooms, making

the cinema screen removable, changing the stage, bringing the basement into use for workshops and generally making the Rio more comfortable and attractive are just a few of the things that will be done.

To make the place work we will need your support. Perhaps you have always fancied yourself selling ice-creams? Well, if you want to volunteer or find out more, contact us now.

The Rio centre is c/o Centreprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

First gig planned

The first musical event at the Rio will be a concert featuring SOULYARD and JUBA. The concert is a benefit to raise money for SOULYARD who were burgled recently.

The thieves, not wanting to attract attention by battering down the door, broke into the empty house next door, knocked a large hole in the party wall and made off with instruments and PA equipment. The band were doubly unlucky as their insurance policy had just lapsed, leaving them without instruments or the money to replace them.

SOULYARD and JUBA have already built up high musical and lyrical reputations.

SOULYARD (funky soul) and JUBA (Afro-funk-Latin-reggae) are two of the most exciting bands to be seen in London these days.



Book Review

EARLY EAST END SOCIALISTS

At different times, and in different places, so integrated has been the life of a community with a particular political movement, that they have been seen from outside as almost inseparable. As to which came first - the strong, self-identified sense of community and culture, or the binding force of a particular political idea, is really a chicken and egg story. Examples of this crucial breakthrough would include the mining villages of south Wales, between 1900 and 1939, Glasgow and some Scottish pit villages between 1900 and 1926, particular northern coalfield villages like Chopwell in Durham, with its Marx and Lenin Terraces in the 1920s, and of course east London from the 1890s onwards.

East London really has been the home of two traditions: it was where the new unionism of Will Thorne and the gas workers, for example, in East and West Ham, and Ben Tillett and the dockers, formed a powerful base for socialist ideas from 1890-1950s, and where also large-scale Jewish immigration at the turn of the century brought another kind of oppressed culture where revolutionary ideas could find a hearing and a genuine constituency.

Joe Jacobs' recently published autobiography, *Out Of The Ghetto*, uncompleted, sadly, at his death in March 1977, paints a vivid and very human picture of the East End Jewish community in this century, and the life of a flourishing Communist Party in that period also. What is so fine about this particular book is that it gives equal weight to the experiences and characteristics of the people involved, as it does to the politics of "the Party", which at that time saw itself, in characteristically militaristic terms,

as "the general staff of the working class".

Clearly in the numerous small Jewish families which Jacobs writes about, nearly all of whom worked in the clothing trade, "the Party" was an active and ever-present force in the daily lives of the people. It demanded attendance at countless meetings, leaflettings, demonstrations, in return for which it gave a cast-iron assurance that its members were part of an organisation which history itself had chosen to bring the downfall of capitalism and the creation of a new socialist order. The Party gave life meaning, and it also provided people with long-lasting friendships and an important sense of internationalism and concern for people suffering everywhere.

Joe Jacobs was not always happy within the Communist Party though. In the endless debate about the relative importance of trade union work and domestic and "street politics", which still continues today, Joe Jacobs always preferred direct work with people rather than ladder-climbing with the ranks of the trade unions.

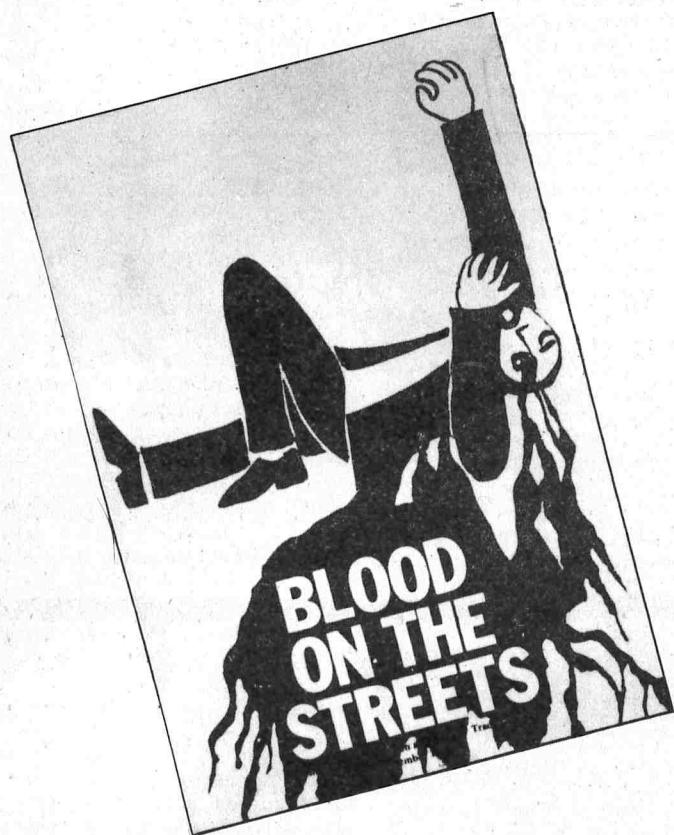
He foresaw the danger by which genuine militants eventually became trapped by the forms and procedures of full-time trade union work; and evidence continues to come daily in the newspapers of leading trade union officials joining the other general staff - that of the corporate state, many of whom started out in the Communist Party.

One strong preoccupation which runs through the whole book is the persistent problem of the relationship between a political movement and the daily lives and experiences of the majority of the people. Unhappily, the major tradition on the revolutionary left is that "the Party" is an almost clandestine, cell-based organisation, with a complicated and secret internal life that could not be understood by outsiders, unless they joined. The trouble is most people don't join for those very reasons. An important moment in Joe Jacobs' growing sense of disillusionment with the Communist Party comes when the Party drops the idea of any more street meetings and proposes indoor meetings by invitation only to "ensure an audience of good quality".

This elitist attitude towards people is not only true of the Communist Party then, but of many other self-styled "vanguard" parties, and of non-vanguard parties as well: the Labour Party has never shown much interest in its membership except in head-counting. This attitude smacks more of television's way of choosing an audience for "The Generation Game" than of a socialist party trying to create a new society.

It's a rewarding book in many, many ways. One learns a lot more about the political history of the left in East London, whose ghosts and procedure books still haunt places like our own Labour and Trades Hall in Dalston Lane; one learns a lot about the many extraordinary self-sacrificing working-class people who struggled to make the vision come true. One also enjoys the very readable autobiography of a likeable and patently honest man who wasn't afraid to break off a relationship that had ceased to mean anything worthwhile in political terms. This book is crucial reading.

Out Of The Ghetto, by Joe Jacobs, published by Janet Simon, price £3. Available from Centreprise bookshop, or order it from your local library. Ken Worpole



BLOOD ON THE STREETS is an excellent account of the wave of racist violence that has swept East London in the last few years. Published by Bethnal Green and Stepney Trades Council it is a sobering study of attacks and the action of the residents to meet these. Especially important reading now, with the death of Michael Ferreira in Stoke Newington just before Christmas and the attempt by the National Front to base themselves firmly in the East End, it cost £1 and is available from Centreprise and other good bookshops.

Hackney FEB '79 Gasbag

WE PRESENT EPISODE TWO OF THE GRIPPING THRILLER...

WHODUNNIT?

Statement from
MISS LULU ESANCHE

Well, on the day of this very sad event, Thaxton Hall was very badly staffed. The regular cook and two of the maids were away, therefore myself and Mr. Simpkins had to share all the extra duties, which naturally kept us very busy. I was so busy that I couldn't prepare the breakfast!

I began my duties at about 7.00pm. These included dusting, cleaning, washing, etc. Then, at about twelve noon, me and Mr. Simpkins served lunch to the Master and Mr. Smedley-Jones. I remember now that Mr. Ralph was not there. Lunch was finished at just gone half past one, after which Mr. Simpkins helped me with the washing up.

We then began to clear and

tidy the ballroom for a dance that was soon to be held. It was in a terrible state, and it took us hours to clear it.

After this Mr. Simpkins went to check that I had properly cleared the spare rooms. I went downstairs with a vase for the drawing room. Unfortunately I was suddenly surprised by a person behind me - Mr. Ralph, it was - so surprised in fact that I dropped the vase.

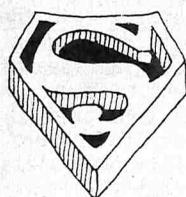
Well, after this incident, I returned to the drawing room. Soon I had completed the few jobs that I had to do in there, and soon afterwards dinner was served. This was at 5.15. We finished serving dinner at 7.00. Normally I would now have begun to prepare the dinner for the following day, but as the cook was not here the family

were eating out. Instead, I spent the time reading, knitting and sewing in my own room. This is on the first floor, by the west window.

At 11.40, as I was about to go to bed, I heard a crackling and roaring outside my room. I realised that the Hall of Pictures was on fire. I quickly ran downstairs, screaming for help. Seeing a light in the summer house, I ran down to it and found Mr. Ralph. I told him of the fire, and he ran to it, telling me to stay with Mr. Smedley-Jones. He soon returned, and said it was over. I'm afraid I broke down then. All I can remember is Mr. Simpkins and Mr. Olgy rushing into the room, shouting MURDER!

Mr. John Smedley-Jones had been found dead in the garden

TO BE CONTINUED...



You'll
Believe
A Man
Can Fly



Jokes

Three men went into a pub. The first said "Can I have a pint of beer please?" A voice came out of the darkness "I am the ghost of one black eye!" He ran out screaming.

The second man went into the pub and said "Pint of beer please"; and the ghostly voice replied "I am the ghost of one black eye!" He ran out scared stiff.

The third man went into the pub and said "Pint of beer please"; and the voice replied "I am the ghost of one black eye" to which he replied "And you'll have two black eyes if you don't hurry up."

The walls of crystal are roaring, crashing upon fleeing people beneath. Gigantic flames begin to engulf the helpless planet. Fire rolls in lumbering, terrifying wrath. And still the crystals fall. The planet is being destroyed. They should have listened but they didn't.

What am I describing?

Just one of the many, stunningly powerful scenes of Superman. With Christopher Reeve, Marlon Brando and others, Superman is a film to be compared with Star Wars

and Close Encounters. Our muscle-bound hero is played perfectly by the hitherto little-known Christopher Reeve. Most of the other actors are excellent as well.

Readers who have also seen the pathetic 'Spider-man' may be forgive for presuming Superman to be of the same calibre, but are very much mistaken. It is not.

Superman is amazing - for hours you are in a different world - world in which you'll believe a man can fly.



Who are 'The People's Police'?

We're sorry that this issue will come out after the date that we're sure you'll have missed. A press release from Hackney Town Hall - which was not sent to us; we wonder why? - tells us that there is to be a public meeting in the Town Hall on Tuesday 30 January, called The People's Police. The talk, which will be given by senior police officers from Hackney's constabulary,

is about the police in Hackney and the rest of London.

The press release says that the "main aim is to try and help with those problems which exist in today's world of crime. It is hoped that the public will take advantage of the talk by attending it and by beating out as many questions as possible."

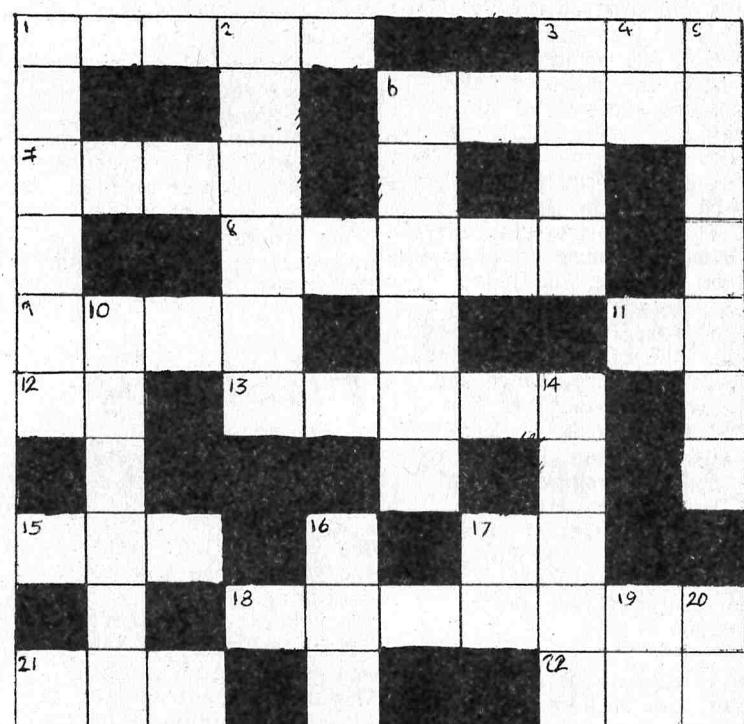
Some of the questions they could cover? The racist

use of the "sus" law; what the hard-hitting Special Patrol Group is doing in Hackney; why Michael Ferreira was left bleeding on a police station floor for 45 minutes; how often the police break the rules when questioning suspects; whether the police computer means that they can snoop more easily into our private lives.

However, they are not

likely to answer these questions at all. They are much more likely to say that they can't do their job effectively because the law won't let them. They want to have increased powers - to arrest people without telling them why, to hold them for longer without charging them and to refuse to let people see solicitors or friends. HPP will tell you what they do say in the next issue.

Hackney Gasword



ACROSS

1. A punctuation mark, yes (5)
3. Miserable (3)
6. Edge of a knife (5)
7. Jack Spratt's wife would not touch it (4)
8. You'll get it after some practice (5)
9. As obstinate as a horse? No (4)
11. The best paper in the world! L/After News! (abbreviated) (2)
12. No good (2)
13. A sort of boat? (5)
15. Or nearest offer? (3)
17. Morning, not p.m. (2)
18. A launderette should have a washing... (7)
21. Young man (3)
22. Insult the pet. (3)

DOWN

1. Row after row (6)
2. An animal that eats bananas (6)
3. He's a card! (4)
4. After B.C. (2)
5. You need this to protect yourself (7)
6. A special police force: Special... (6)
10. Idr Amin rules OK here? (6)
14. A little frightened (5)
16. When you need mental treatment you are... (3)
17. You shout this out when you are in pain (2)
19. Negative answer (2)
20. A short abbreviation, for example (2)

What do you call an Irish petrol pump attendant? Smurphy

Mummy, Mummy, I don't want to go to America for my holiday.

Shut up and keep swimming.

What cat lives in the sea? An octopus

What runs but doesn't walk? Your nose.

When is a cat not a cat? When it's a kitten.

What does the stupid Fonz say?STRAW !!

What do cannibals play at parties? Swallow my leader.

Did you hear about the stupid man who went to get his car serviced? He got stuck in the church doors.

Heard about the stupid wood-worm? It was found dead in a brick.

information

All listings on this page are inserted absolutely FREE. For the next issue, just send us your information by

FRIDAY 23 FEBRUARY

Write to Hackney People's Press, c/o 136 Kingsland High Street, London E.8.

Community, Tenants and Pensioners Groups

HACKNEY PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION
34 Dalston Lane, E8
Advice service on Tuesday and Thursdays from 10.30 to 4pm. Tea Bar Monday to Friday 10.30 to 4pm.

TASK FORCE
34 Dalston Lane, E8. Tel. 254 1620
Free advice for pensioners in Hackney. Odd jobs and visits in N16 and N4 only. Pensioners' activities and neighbourhood care in N5.

HACKNEY ASSOCIATION FOR WELFARE OF OLD PEOPLE
22 Dalston Lane, E8. Tel. 254 0715

HARAMBEE 2 PROJECT
74 Downham Road N1.
Social and advice centre, aimed particularly at black people.
Tuesday 10am-10pm
Thursday 10am-4.30pm
Friday 10am-10pm

OFF CENTRE
25 Hackney Grove, E8. Tel. 985 8566
Advice for young people between 13 and 25 with any problems.
Monday-Friday 10am-6pm (open until 8.30pm on Thursdays).

FRIENDS ANONYMOUS SERVICE
Friendship House, 27 Hackney Grove, E8.
24 hour telephone service with people always willing to listen and act.
986 2233 (24 hours)
985 0973
986 9146 (office hours)

FEDERATION OF HACKNEY TENANTS ASSOCIATIONS
Represents borough, GLC and private tenants throughout Hackney. Contact joint secretaries for details: Bob Darke, 154 Trelawney Estate, Paragon Road, E9 and Steve Jacobs, c/o ALHE, 17 Victoria Park Square, E2 (981 1221).

HACKNEY HOUSING ACTION GROUP
Concerned about the blight of homes left empty for long periods in Hackney and working to get them used. Contact Jon Webber, Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

HACKNEY GINGERBREAD
Group for one parent families. Meets every Monday at the Family Centre, Rectory Road, N16. Creche available. Contact Teresa Blackhall, 729 1647 for details.

HOMERTON GINGERBREAD
Group for one parent families. Meets every other Friday at the Wally Foster Centre. Contact 985 3972 for details.

HACKNEY UNITED TENANTS ASSOCIATION
c/o 35 Finnmore House, Woodberry Down, N4.

Women

HACKNEY ABORTION CAMPAIGN
Meetings fortnightly at 20 Parkholme Road, E8. Contact 249 3768 for details.

WOMEN'S CENTRE
1 Cazenove Road, N16.
Advice, creche, children's clothes swap shop, beginners photography, crafts, yoga, relaxation, consciousness raising groups, food co-op, alternative medicine, self-defence. Further information from 806 6664. All women welcome.

RAPE CRISIS CENTRE
Tel. 340 6145. 24 hour information and advice.

HACKNEY SOCIALIST FEMINIST GROUP
Meet alternate Mondays at the Factory, Matthias Road, N16, at 7.30pm. Contact Pat 254 5821 or Harriet 254 5208.

HACKNEY TRADES COUNCIL WOMEN'S SUB COMMITTEE
Re-formed recently. Meets once a month. Contact Judy Newcombe, 254 0685 for details. All women and men welcome.

Health
CITY AND HACKNEY COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL
Shoreditch Health Centre, 210 Kingsland Road, E2. Tel. 739 6308/8351.
The public's voice in the NHS—provides advice, takes up your complaints and criticisms. Open meeting on 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6.30pm. Publishes **HEALTH IN HACKNEY**: a comprehensive FREE guide to health facilities and services in the area.

HANDICAPPED CHILDREN IN HACKNEY
Advice, ideas, information. Trying to contact all families in district with a handicapped child. Contact Ann Purdon, 48 Mount Pleasant Lane, E5. Tel. 808 8438.

THE BIRTH CENTRE
188 Old Street, E1. Tel. 251 4076.
Information, advice, lectures and seminars on birth at home and in hospital.
Open evening every Wednesday 8pm. 25p.

EAST LONDON WOMEN'S HEALTH GROUP
c/o 116 Albion Drive, E8.

STOKE NEWINGTON HEALTH GROUP
Local people interested in all matters concerned with health. Contact Alan Clarke, 21 Kynaston Road, N16. 254 3277.

COMMUNITY HEALTH FOUNDATION
188 Old Street, E1. 251 4076.

Community Centres

CENTERPRISE
136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Tel. 254 9632.
Bookshop and office hours:
Tuesday-Saturday 10am-6.30pm.
Coffee bar and meeting room hours:
Tuesday-Friday 10am-9.30pm.
Saturday 10am-5.30pm.

FACILITIES:
Coffee bar; bookshop; advice, information and contacts for individuals and groups. Typewriters can be used free, duplicating at cost price. Ask in General Office.

ADVICE CENTRE:
Legal and welfare advice session on Thursdays 6.30-7.30pm. Contact Jon Webber or ring 254 9634.

READING CENTRE:
For adults who find it hard to read or write. Contact Sue Shrapnel or ring 254 9635.

PUBLISHING PROJECT:
Publishing books by people who live in Hackney. Contact Ken Worpole or ring 254 9634.

WALLY FOSTER CENTRE
Homerton Road, E9. Tel. 985 3972.

Community Centre with many activities:
SOCIAL SERVICES ADVICE CENTRE: every weekday 9am-5pm.

ADULT LITERACY CLASSES:

Every Monday at 7pm. Also playgroup, mothers and toddlers group, pensioners lunch club, school welfare advice, youth club for 5-8 year olds, Kung Fu and juvenile dance classes.

See also **ADVICE** and **NEIGHBOURHOOD ENGLISH CLASSES** listings.

THE FAMILY CENTRE
50 Rectory Road, N16. Tel. 249 8334.

Information and help for all community problems. Cooking, washing, creche facilities. Open all day.

HOUSING ADVICE CENTRE
302-4 Mare Street, E8. Tel. 986 8123.

Helps with all housing problems. Repairs, rebates, landlord/tenant, council/tenant.

HACKNEY CENTRAL INFORMATION BUREAU
Town Hall, Mare Street, E8. Tel. 986 3123.

HACKNEY NORTH LABOUR PARTY ADVICE CENTRE
5 Stamford Hill, N16.

Advice and information on legal, financial, welfare, housing, social security and personal problems. FRIDAYS 7-8pm.

RECTORY HOUSING AND WELFARE ADVICE CENTRE
Family Centre, 50 Rectory Road, N16.

Help with housing, employment, health and social security and community and race relations problems.

SUNDAYS 10.30am-12.00 noon.

Advice can also be obtained from **HARAMBEE 2 PROJECT**, **OFF CENTRE** and **FRIENDS ANONYMOUS**. See **Community Groups** listing on this page.

For MPs and councillors Advice surgeries see **LABOUR PARTY** under **POLITICAL GROUPS** listing on this page.

Advice

Free legal advice on housing, landlord and tenant, employment, social security, welfare, matrimonial, immigration and discrimination problems can be obtained from the following centres:

CENTERPRISE
136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Tel. 254 9632.
THURSDAYS 6.30-7.30pm.

HOXTON HALL
128a Hoxton Street, N1. Tel. 739 5431.
WEDNESDAYS 7-8pm.

KINGSMEAD
Wally Foster Centre, Homerton High Street, E9. Tel. 985 3804.
TUESDAYS 7-8pm.

SNAGS
102 Manor Road, N16. Tel. 800 3770.
MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS 7-8pm. (802 7949).

ALLEN ROAD
12 Allen Road, N16.
THURSDAYS 7-8pm.

Advice can also be obtained from:

HACKNEY ADVICE BUREAU & LAW CENTRE
236-8 Mare Street, E8. Tel. 986 8446.
Open Monday-Friday 10am-5pm (7.30 on Thursdays).

Legal aid and advice on housing, rents, repairs and employment problems.

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAUX

111 Hoxton Street, N1. Tel. 739 4654.

106 Old Street, EC1. Tel. 253 2155.

HACKNEY COUNCIL FOR RACIAL EQUALITY 245 Mare St, E8.
TUESDAYS 7-8.30pm.

Immigration, discrimination, housing law and other problems. 986 4121.

THE FAMILY CENTRE

50 Rectory Road, N16. Tel. 249 8334.

Information and help in all community problems.

Cooking, washing, creche facilities. Open all day.

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For MPs and councillors Advice surgeries see **LABOUR PARTY** under **POLITICAL GROUPS** listing on this page.

Arrested? Helping enquiries? evicted?
EMERGENCY LEGAL SERVICE

Ring 986 9891. 24 hour free legal service from 6pm Friday over whole weekend.

Education

SOCIALIST EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION
83 Eleanor Road, E8.

Contact Beverly Bovis for details.

ENGLISH FOR SPANISH SPEAKERS

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6.30pm at Latin America Centre, 17 Hoxton Square, N1.

ADULT LITERACY SCHEMES

For details of adult literacy courses in your area contact:

Carol Morris, BETHNAL GREEN AEI, 229 Bethnal Green Road, E2. 739 7790.

Donald Kenrick, CLAPTON AEI, Brooke House, Kennington Road, E5. 985 9646.

Graham Morris, HACKNEY COLLEGE, 249 7221.

June Hewes, HACKNEY LIBRARIES, Shoreditch Library, Pitfield Street, N1. 739 5153.

Sue Shrapnel, HACKNEY READING CENTRE, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8. 254 9635.

Cal Weatherald, Highbury MANOR AEI, Jack Ashley School, Blackstock Road, N4 226 9190.

John Rake, HOXTON HALL, 128a Hoxton Street, N1. 739 5431.

HACKNEY LANGUAGE SCHEME

Teach the kind of English needed in day-to-day life.

Classes operate throughout Hackney. For further information contact Annette

Giles, 249 1496, or call at the Family Centre, Rectory

Road, N16 on Thursday mornings.

HACKNEY HOSPITAL RADIO

Programme schedule:

Mon-Fri 7pm-9pm 9pm-11pm

Sunday 1pm-5pm 5pm-7pm

7pm-10pm

Pop Shows Easy Listening Show

Soul Show Sunday Supplement

(local and international news, "In Bed with a Book", funnies and music.)

Hackney Radio Roadshow disco unit. Contact Bob Kingsley 539 6235 or Hackney Hospital Radio, 985 5555 ext 115.

EAST LONDON/BRIXTON MEN'S GROUP

Contact Paul, 12 Montague Road, E8. Tel. 254 9497.

EAST LONDON MEN'S CENTRE

19 Redmans Road, E1. Tel. 790 2454.

Use this space free —

send your information or

small ad to us : HPP

c

MOURNING FOR MICHAEL

Continued from p.1.

The day before Michael's funeral, two of the men accused of murdering him appeared at Highbury Magistrate's Court. The public gallery was packed with black people showing solidarity with the Ferreira family and expressing their anger against racism.

Before the hearing, all black people were thoroughly searched on entering the court. However, this did not apply to whites. Due to the large black presence, the hearing was adjourned.

Mrs Moses (Michael's mother) became very upset, and someone shouted: "We want justice!" The magistrate ordered the court to be cleared, and Mrs Moses was rudely ushered to the witness stand and then to the jailer.

One young black man was arrested and bound over for holding up a poster which he had in protest against the treatment of Mrs Moses. While in the custody of the police, she was manhandled, insulted and underwent humiliating experiences.

Another black sympathiser, Winston James, was pounced upon by police in the hallway of the court. Winston did not attack anyone. On the contrary, he was grabbed, thrown against a table, then flung to the floor. Furthermore, he was punched by several "enforcers of the law" and kicked in the groin.

He was taken in extreme pain to the court cells

where he was not allowed to see a doctor, and not allowed to telephone a lawyer. Before being formally charged, he was forcibly fingerprinted and photographed.

He was then charged with assault and obstructing one policeman, and assault on another policeman.

He is now out on £100 bail and must report to the local police station every evening.

At a previous hearing the court was packed with white people. There was no picket, and very few black people present. At that time, one of Michael Ferreira's murderers had the charge of murder dropped to one of disturbing the peace and given bail.

The only condition attached to this bail was that the murderer did not frequent the streets of Hackney, for his own protection. Whereas, a black sympathiser, assaulted in the Queen's Court of Law, must report every day to the police station.

The Hackney Black People's Defence Organisation stated afterwards: "From what happened on Friday 19th at Highbury Court, we now know what to expect - not only will we get no justice within the courts, we will also be attacked by the police when we give support to our people.

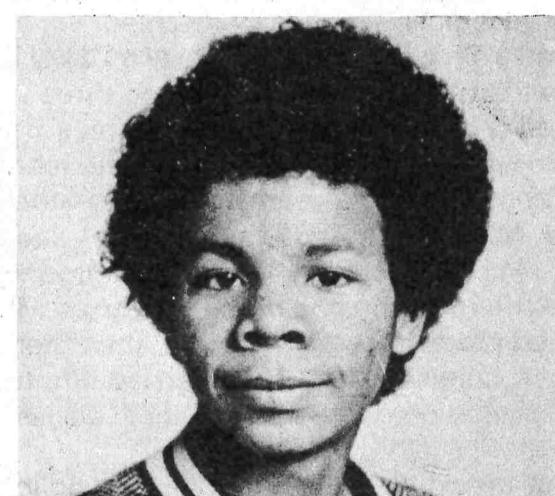
But it is vital that we carry on turning up in large numbers at these courts to make it clear that we are supporting the victims and

that we know what is happening.

"It is only because members of the HBPDO saw Winston being assaulted and immediately obtained a good lawyer, that Winston was legally represented at the court that same afternoon. The lesson for all black people is the need for an organised and unified

effort to challenge the racism of the police and the law courts."

For further information, contact the Hackney Black People's Defence Organisation, Box 11, c/o 136 Kingsland High St, E8, tel 735 2101 Monday-Friday 10 am-6 pm, or 806 5554 Tuesday/Thursday/Friday 8 pm-11 pm.



HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS



decisions are made collectively. We hold regular weekly meetings when you can tell us what you think about the paper, or volunteer to help us write, produce or sell the next issue. These are held in Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8, on Monday evenings at 8 pm.

If you can't come along, then write to us c/o Centerprise or ring 249 0311 any evening or weekend.

HPP is sold through various newsagents and other outlets throughout Hackney. If you think that your newsagent would like to sell it, then please contact us. And if you don't think that you can spare the time to become more fully involved, but you enjoy reading the paper, and think more people should read it, then please get in touch if you are willing to sell a few copies to your friends or neighbours or at meetings.

Please send me a year's subscription to HPP. I enclose a cheque/PO for £2 made out to HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS.

Send to HPP, c/o 136 Kingsland High St, E8

Name _____

Address _____

NALGO drops local claims

On Friday, 26 January, over 1,200 delegates from every branch of NALGO, the union to which nearly all social workers belong, met to vote on a new national structure for pay determination that the Joint National Council working party had presented to the branches barely a week before. The meeting took place in Central Hall, Westminster, to a large audience of social workers who had crammed themselves into the public gallery to hear the debate which began at 10 am and went on to the evening.

Regular readers of HPP will remember that the working party that was set up between the union and the employers had met on a number of occasions and had put forward a very complex national structure for negotiations that would replace the existing national agreement. This structure had been considered by the social workers at branch level and up to Friday's meeting had been overwhelmingly rejected. One of the main reasons that the structure had been rejected, apart from it being so difficult to understand or to predict just how much was in it for the social workers, was that it was a new national structure, when the reason that the strikes were official was because they were demanding local negotiation. Local negotiation had been official NALGO policy for two years.

The final working party report that came out on 19 January offered some clarification on the proposed structure but still contained many parts that gave no real assurance about how it would be applied. The special group meeting on the 26th was arranged by the union who strongly recommended that the

structure be accepted. The social workers in Tower Hamlets, despite having been out on strike for more than five months, and all of whom want to get back to work as soon as a reasonable offer is made, mandated their delegates to reject the structure, as did Islington where the social workers had been on strike for seven weeks.

Various amendments were put to the meeting on the 26th, one of which was to reject the structure. The amendments were heard in the morning before the recommendation of the union was debated. The amendment to reject was the most important since it would clearly indicate whether the structure was ultimately going to be accepted or not. Working on the usual basis that the delegates represented the full membership of the branch, the amendment lost by 250,000 to 120,000. A further amendment from Newcastle that the social workers currently on strike be allowed to stay out until a reasonable settlement was made by the local authorities, actually fell by only 5,000 votes, after a hand vote had seen that the amendment would succeed.

It remains to be seen how the acceptance of the new structure will affect Hackney's social workers. Various offers that were made by the Council when strike action was being considered were also rejected by the staff. Eventually, then, the union will be meeting the Council to find out how the new structure is going to be applied, but no matter what, there is no chance that NALGO are going to be interested in supporting further strike action for a long time after a dispute which has lasted six months and cost £2m, they have had enough.

Hackney's Year of the Child

On 23 January, a group of people representing Hackney Council for Racial Equality, City & Hackney Community Health Council, Association for the Welfare of Children in Hospital, Hackney Under Fives and the Hackney Play Association met to discuss what could be done in Hackney to celebrate the International Year Of The Child.

Lots of ideas were suggested - a May Day festival, neighbourhood exhibitions and events, projects in schools, a large multi-media event, an end-of-year conference, but the general feeling was that whatever happened, the overall theme would be a very local one and draw on the direct experience of what it actually means to grow up in Hackney, from before birth to early adulthood.

The organisations which are already interested very much hope that many groups and individuals in Hackney will come together over this issue: it is one that involves not only those who traditionally care for children - parents, playgroups, youth clubs, schools, playgrounds, nurseries etc - but also other groups not specifically orientated towards children such as tenants' associations, trade unions, ethnic groups, community associations and arts clubs.

An open meeting for everyone interested in a Hackney Year Of The Child to discuss ideas and hopefully to draw up a plan of action is being held on Thursday 1 March at 8 pm in the basement of Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High St, E8. Things will only start happening if people come to this meeting to decide what we're going to do.

If you would like more information or want to discuss possible ideas, do phone 254 9145 where there will usually be someone to talk to.

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